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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

## Office of the Attorney General

### Purpose and History

The Attorney General is an original constitutional office and is elected by popular vote every four years. The Attorney General is the head of the Department of Justice, composed of the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorneys Training Coordinator, the Office of the Consumer Advocate, and the Victim Assistance Program. The Office of the Attorney General represents the State in all litigation, issues formal and informal opinions and advice to State agencies, prosecutes some criminal offenders and handles all criminal appeals, and administers the Farm Mediation Program and the Legal Services Poverty Grants Program.

### Funding

The Office receives approximately 32.0% of its funding from the General Fund. The majority of its funding is from reimbursements from other agencies or internal funds. It receives reimbursements from other agencies and other funds for legal services provided.

The Office leverages other funds under its control to perform functions of the Department of Justice. Some of these internal funds are restricted accounts, where the fund is restricted either in regard to the sources of the revenue or the expenditure of the funds. The Office has little discretion in spending the funds; the Office must spend them for their required purposes.

The majority of restricted funds are created due to lawsuit settlements, and the receipts must be expended within the parameters set by court orders. Other restricted funds are created by statute, and the receipts must be expended as defined by the General Assembly. Restricted funds include: Victim Compensation Fund, Consumer Education and Litigation Fund, Court-Ordered Environmental Crime Fines Fund, Consumer Credit Administration Fund, Elderly Victims Fraud Fund, Fine Paper Antitrust Fund, Consumer Fraud Refunds, Federal Forfeiture Asset Sharing Fund, and Forfeited Property Fund.

Consumer Fraud Refunds is a holding account, with receipts to the account disbursed to consumers who have been defrauded.

### National Perspective

The Office is a member of the National Association of Attorneys General. This professional organization provides a forum for state attorneys general to cooperate on issues of interstate interest or national issues.

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### More Information

Office of the Attorney General: [iowaattorneygeneral.gov](http://iowaattorneygeneral.gov)  
LSA Staff Contact: Isabel Waller (515.281.6561) [isabel.waller@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:isabel.waller@legis.iowa.gov)

**Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapters [13](#), [13A](#), and [553](#)

Iowa Code section [714.16](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [61](#)

**Budget Unit Number**

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